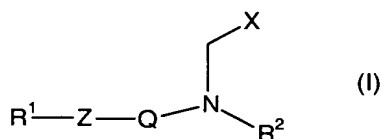


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Compounds of formula (I):



wherein

R¹ represents optionally substituted C₄₋₁₂ alkyl, optionally substituted C₂₋₆alkylaryl, or optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl;

Z represents a bond, CH₂, O, S, SO, SO₂, NR⁴, OCR⁴R⁵, CR⁴R⁵O, or Z, R¹ and Q together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

Q represents an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

X represents COR³ or N(OR⁸)COR⁹;

R² represents SO₂R¹⁰ or SO₂NR¹⁰R¹¹;

R³ represents OR⁶, NR⁶R⁷ or NR⁶OH;

R⁴ and R⁵ each independently represents H, C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₁₋₄ alkylaryl;

R⁶ and R⁷ each independently represents H, C₁₋₆ alkyl, or C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with one or more heteroaryl groups, or R⁶ and R⁷ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from O, S and N;

R⁸ and R⁹ each independently represents H or C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R¹⁰ and R¹¹ each independently represents H or C₁₋₆ alkyl; and

and physiologically functional derivatives thereof, with the exception of N-(ethoxycarbonyl)-N-[4-(1H-tetrazol-1-yl)phenyl]glycine, processes for their preparation, pharmaceutical formulations containing them and their use as inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinase enzymes (MMPs) are described.